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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

RECORD

New Faces, New Voices Join Merrimack This Fall

Colleagues,

A new academic year is a new beginning, and that sense of joy and renewal that reminds us yet again why we all chose higher education as our vocation.

This fall we have so many fresh faces and new minds joining our community — more than 1,100 freshmen and 27 new full-time faculty members. They join a Merrimack College family that we have come to know, respect and love — one built on Augustinian values of community learning and living, of seeking wisdom through knowledge, of respecting each person for his or her own gifts and contributions.



Our new community members always make us a richer, more lively campus as they bring their experiences along on our shared journey. New faculty have come from across the country and around the world, adding their expertise in teaching and research to each of our five schools along with the Compass Program and the Interdisciplinary Institute. I had a chance to talk with many of them at our welcome reception last week, and I am eager to see the great things they will do at Merrimack.

Our first-year students come to us from 22 states and 16 countries. They include 48 percent women and 52 percent men, and 18 percent people of color and international students; 87 percent will live on campus and 13 percent will commute. Nearly one third — 31 percent — of this freshman class are first-generation students, and 11 percent are Merrimack legacies.

Most tellingly, 79 percent of our new freshmen came to campus at least once while considering their college decision — an open house, an academic preview day, an admitted student day or a family tour. This speaks volumes about the amazing job our faculty and staff — and student volunteers — do in explaining exactly what Merrimack College is and what we offer to young people looking to expand their future horizons.

In the same way, as I always say, faculty recruit faculty — new faculty members join us because they have been convinced by faculty colleagues that Merrimack is the place to make their careers in education.

Merrimack College is successful, and that success is borne out by the numbers of students and faculty who choose us, our rising graduation rates, our amazing record of career and graduate school placements, and so many other benchmarks. But always remember that the

numbers are the result of a lot of hard work and interactions by the people on this campus — the members of our community. You are the reason we are a success; the amazing numbers are just a simple marker of your commitment to Merrimack.

Thank you.

Best,
Chris

State Approval for Nursing Bachelor's Program Starting 2019

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing has approved Merrimack's plan to offer a bachelor of science in nursing starting in fall 2019.

Kyle McInnis, dean of the School of Health Sciences, has appointed Lynne S. Sheppard, R.N., D.N.P., the school's executive director of nursing.

An aging Baby Boomer population, a national increase in chronic diseases, and a wave of retirements in the health field has created strong demand for a new nursing program, McInnis said. "The Augustinian values and the mission of Merrimack College align perfectly with what nursing is all about — service to others," he said.

The School of Health Sciences has positioned itself well to begin the nursing program. It has built great momentum in its academics throughout campus, regionally, and nationally, including establishment of the school in 2017 with new academic programs, elite faculty, and a brand-new home in O'Reilly Hall which has state of the art equipment and teaching/learning spaces.

Demand for the bachelor of science in nursing will outpace the available number of available slots, so the program will be highly selective and attract the finest students, McInnis said. The school plans to open with 30-40 students compared to other schools that average 80-90 students per class, so Merrimack students can expect greater interaction with their instructors.

The new program may open opportunities in the future to start a bachelor completion program for nurses who have associate degrees from other colleges, as well as the development of continuing education programs for area healthcare providers and a master's degree in nursing.

Under the leadership of Health Sciences Assistant Dean Jessica Mollignano and consultant Sharon George, the school is developing clinical affiliations and partnerships with a number of medical and health care institutions, including Lawrence General Hospital, Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, Mass., and Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital in Haverhill, Mass.

The School of Health Sciences already has nursing faculty, including former provost Carol Glod and assistant professor Traci Alberti. Additional nursing faculty and clinical instructors will be hired over the next several years to create a Department of Nursing within the School of Health Sciences. Sophisticated technology teaching laboratories and clinical spaces are being incorporated into the college's master space planning.

"Nursing gives us exciting new opportunities for teaching, scholarly research, external partnerships, and ability to deliver our service mission," McInnis said.

Jesuit Priest/Author to Speak at Academic Convocation

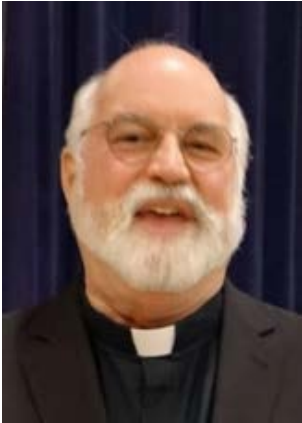
Merrimack's annual Academic Convocation, the ceremony that formally opens each academic year, will feature remarks by the Rev. Gregory Boyle, a Jesuit priest who has worked for decades to help young people out of gang life in Los Angeles.

Convocation is held at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, in Hammel Court. Faculty and seniors, in academic robes, will form a procession at McQuade Library and march to Hammel. Freshmen will arrive directly at the Hall of Fame lobby of the Merrimack Athletics Complex for check-in.

Classes are suspended during Convocation.

Father Boyle is the author of "Tattoos on the Heart" and "Barking to the Choir," the former detailing his work building a business to help former gang members and the latter a collection of stories of faith, compassion and kinship. "Tattoos on the Heart" has been assigned to participants in the College's First Year Experience program.

Father Boyle has been awarded the California Peace Prize and the Laetare Medal for Outstanding Service to the Church and Society. He holds a bachelor's degree from Gonzaga University and master's degrees from Loyola Marymount, the Weston School of Theology and the Jesuit School of Theology.



The Convocation will be followed by a welcome-back reception for faculty in the executive room of Crowe Hall.

27 Join Full-Time Ranks of College Faculty



New faculty members greet one another in Crowe Hall.

Merrimack College welcomed 27 new full-time faculty members at a reception in their honor in Crowe Hall.

President Christopher Hopey, Ph.D., told faculty and their guests that they had joined a true and close-knit community, at a college that is on the rise despite a difficult higher education environment. Provost Allan Weatherwax, Ph.D., urged them to join in the spirit of the Merrimack family and attend major events, including Homecoming, to see how the community celebrates together.

The new faculty cohort, spanning all five schools, includes:

PAUL ANTONELLIS, Lecturer, Management. Ed.D., Capella University.

LEENA BHARATH, Assistant Clinical Professor, Health Sciences. Ph.D., Oklahoma State University.

JANET WHATLEY BLUM, Professor, Health Sciences. Sc.D., Boston University

YANITZIA CANETTI, Lecturer, Spanish. Ph.D., Havana University.

JOSEPH CHIARELLI, Assistant Professor, Chemistry & Biochemistry. Ph.D., Tufts University.

PATRICIA CLARKE, Lecturer, Marketing. M.B.A., Babson College.

MATTHEW COHEN, Lecturer, Political Science. Ph.D., Northeastern University.

MARIA TERESA DAVILA, Lecturer, Religious and Theological Studies. Ph.D., Boston College.

ELLEN FITZPATRICK, Scholar in Residence, Interdisciplinary Institute. Ph.D., Michigan State University.

MARIKO FRAME, Assistant Professor, Economics. Ph.D., University of Denver.

REBECCA FRANCKLE, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences. Sc.D., Harvard University.

NICOLE FRISCH, Assistant Professor, Criminology & Criminal Justice. Ph.D., University of Maryland.

TAHIR HAMEED, Visiting Associate Professor, Management Information Systems. Ph.D., Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.

JONATHAN LATIANO, Assistant Professor, Visual and Performing Arts. M.F.A., Maryland Institute College of Art.

F. DORIE MANSEN, Lecturer, Religious and Theological Studies. Ph.D., Boston University.

DIANA MARGINEAN, Lecturer, Compass Program. Ph.D., Brandeis University.

MARK McCOY, Assistant Professor, Chemistry & Biochemistry. Ph.D., University of California.

LISA O'BRIEN, Assistant Professor, Education. Ed.D., Boston University.

EMMA O'DONNELL POLYAKOV, Assistant Professor, Religious and Theological Studies. Ph.D., Boston College.

SEUNGBIN OH, Assistant Professor, Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Ph.D., University of Central Florida.

JESSICA PEACOCK, Assistant Professor, Health Science. Ph.D., Springfield College.

MARY-JOAN PELLETIER POTVIN, Lecturer, Accounting. M.S.A., Suffolk University.

LAUREN ROCHA, Lecturer, English. M.A., University of New Hampshire.

LYNNE SUSAN SHEPPARD, Associate Clinical Professor and Executive Director of Nursing. D.N.P., American Sentinel University.

ELEANOR SHONKOFF, Lecturer, Health Sciences. Ph.D., University of Southern California.

RENA STROUD, Assistant Professor, Education. Ph.D., University of Massachusetts.

ALYSSA YETTER, Assistant Professor, Criminology & Criminal Justice. Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University.



Father Richard Piatt celebrates Mass for the Feast of St. Augustine in the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher.

Coming up

Aug. 31 – Freshman move-in

- 4 p.m., Family Welcome, Hammel Court

Sept. 3 — Upperclass move-in

Sept. 4 — Mass of the Holy Spirit

- 4 p.m., Collegiate Church
- Community cookout, 5:15 p.m.

Sept. 6 — Academic Convocation

- 4 p.m., Hammel Court
- Faculty welcome back, 5:15 p.m., Crowe Hall.

Sept. 11 - Staff forum, first meeting

- 1 p.m., Arcidi Center A

Sept. 13 - Evening of Gratitude

- 6 p.m., Arcidi Center plaza

Sept. 14 - Block Party

- Sakowich Campus Center lot

